taking into consideration the needs of the locality. Medical aid should be free to the poor, but the wealthy should be made to pay for medicines given to them. All kinds of patients were now kept in the same room in the hospitals. The practice should as far as possible be discontinued, as otherwise each patient would contract his neighbour's infection. Medicines supplied to hospitals were being used for private practice by some medical officers. It was necessary to rigorously stop the practice. The tours of the Darbar Physician should be notified beforehand for the information of the public, so that people might see him and represent their grievances in respect of the medical aid at any place. As the cost to the Government on a patient was less in the grant-in-aid hospitals, he proposed that the grant-in-aid system should be liberally extended.

Coming to the Ayurvedic Department, he proposed that a model farm having [illegible] available species of medicinal plants should be opened. Those who were [illegible]sful in the examinations of the Ayurveda Patasala had now no practical [illegible]ledge of those plants, and it was left to the seller of the herbs to identify each of [illegible]. The seller could substitute one herb for another and very few Vaidyans would [illegible]ect the mistake. Practice in the system of treatment was more essential than [illegible] passing of an examination. It was therefore desirable that those who passed the [illegible]aminations should be forced to undergo a practical course of training under a re[illegible]gnised practitioner, before they were given grant-in-aid.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

(2) Town Improvement Committees.

93. Desirability of appointing elected non-official Presidents and Vice-Presidents for all Town Improvement Committees and of enlarging their powers.

Mr. R. Easwara Aiyar, B. A. & B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Quilon) said [illegible]hat the Government had recognised that the administration of the town of Alleppey [illegible]as highly satisfactory under its non-official President. It was therefore desirable to [illegible]xtend the experiment to the other Committees as well. If non-official Presidents [illegible]nd Vice-Presidents were appointed for the Committees, much better work could be [illegible]one by them. The official Presidents, on account of their [illegible] multifarious other duties, [illegible]ound little time to spend on the administration of the town. Even with their utmost [illegible]esire in that direction, they were unable to attend all the meetings of the Committee. [illegible]Further, being officers of the State, they were over-scrupulous in the expenditure of [illegible]he Committee's funds in the interests of the town, so as to avoid the chance of the [illegible]Committee's requisitioning Government help when their balance was spent out. For those and various other grounds, it was desirable to appoint non-official Presidents. She was confident, at least in the case of the major towns, that representatives of the people, who would be willing to serve the people by undertaking the task, were available. He therefore pressed the question for the early attention of the Government.

He next dealt with the enhancement of the financial powers of the Committees. They should have more control over their funds.

Dewan.—I may tell you that a Bill has been drafted for amending and repealing the existing Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation, under which greater financial and other control would be bestowed on the Committees. The Bill is now under the consideration of the Government and it is a very large advance on the existing legislation.

The Member said that if the Government were of opinion that the powers of the Committees should be enhanced, he had nothing more to add. He however suggested that powers should be given to the Committees for raising loans whenever and wherever necessary. So far as the Quilon Committee was concerned, there was a proposal to have the town lit with electricity. A large outlay would be necessary for the purpose. The townsfolk were willing to advance money on debenture bonds issued on the security of the Committee's funds. The town could be improved if such powers were given to the Committee.

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Dewan's reply.—Greater financial powers will be given to the Committees subject to the general control of Government. The provision regarding the raising of loans is already in the draft Bill.

94. Some improvements to the Toduvetti market.

Mr. K. M. Madhavan Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Kuzhithura) said that the Toduvetti market suffered a mutilation with the opening of a road, through its centre, leading to Karungal. The road across the market caused great inconvenience to the people resorting to the market and to the travelling public on market days. There was a cattle market a little to the south and the market days for both the markets were the same. The cattle taken to the cattle market through the road added to the difficulties. When the Kuzhithura Committee began to collect municipal dues in respect of all articles brought to the market, a further difficulty was experienced in enclosing it owing to the presence of the road across. The people entering it could not be discriminated from people travelling through the road. The amount collected as market dues had therefore fallen during the current year.

To avoid all difficulties, the Member proposed the diversion of the Karungal road. There was a lane leading from the Main Southern road about a furlong to the west of the market. It was about 10 ft. wide and 2 furlongs long. If that lane were improved into a cart road, all traffic could be diverted to it and the market could be enclosed.

Dewan's reply.—The Committee should consider at one of their meetings whether they would be willing to spend the amount necessary for the conversion of the lane into a cart road, and forward their resolution to Government. The question will be considered when the Committee's proposals are received.

95. Suggestions for improving the sanitation of the town of Trivandrum.

Mr. S. Adam Sait (Member, Trading Classes) said that pure air, pure water and wholesome food were the essentials of health and all those elements were practically wanting in the town of Trivandrum. Air was contaminated by dust and stench. Increasing traffic made the roads more dusty. The daily inhalation of air charged with microbes of diseases conveyed through the dust wrecked the health of the citizens. He suggested that the only remedy was the watering of the main road from Karamanai to the Museum at least during the hot months of the year. The stench emanating from the gutters and from the night-soil carts was another nuisance, which could be remedied by a regular flushing of the gutters with phenyle lotion and by prohibiting the heaping of dirty matter on the sides of roads and by the transmission of night-soil in air-tight carts. He then referred to the insanitary condition of the lane leading to Muripalathadi temple in Chalai which he represented was one of the hot-beds of diseases caused by the stagnation of water from the gutters.

Coming to the question of water supply, he said that, generally in the whole of the town, and particularly in Palavangadi, Fort and Chalai, the water in the wells was extremely bad. The diseases that had recently taken a firm stand in the town such as typhoid fever, elephantiasis, etc., were directly traceable to bad water. If the water sources were not immediately improved and pipe water introduced in the town the town of Trivandrum would in a few years become unfit for habitation.

Dearth of public latrines was another factor which conduced to the insanitary condition of the town. People suffering from contagious diseases, such as leprosy, etc., were not prevented from resorting to thoroughfares and markets and the law was not being rigorously enforced against them. The Town Improvement Committee did not exercise sufficient control over the sale of confectionery. He suggested that greater discretion should be exercised in the matter of granting licenses for long periods to theatrical performances and that arrangements should be made for the periodical inspection of public conveyances. Much of the milk and buttermilk supplied in the town was adulterated. As the adulterated articles were likely to poison the system when taken in, he thought it essential that they should be inspected as much as flesh or any other article of food. Better attention should be shown to the poor in

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